On May 31th, we conducted our second bat monitoring in Santa Martha Cave to determine the status of the bat population in this refuge and share our knowledge with Hermosillo people interested in learning more about bats, subterranean environments, and our work as biologists and cavers.

We taught how to properly handle a bat in this activity, from mist net sampling to species identification. Eight people registered for the event to follow our activity. Attendees were close with the bat species that inhabit the cave. In addition, we solved their doubts and clarified the reality of the myths that burden these creatures.

In the end, they learned the importance of conserving this cave, the role of bats in the ecosystem they inhabit, and their beauty as a species. Also, we had a lot of fun with this activity and want to keep going back and encouraging more people to join us (Fig. 1 and 2).

We continued our bat population survey for the next 4 months without an open invitation to citizens of Hermosillo because COVID-19 cases increased and we recorded bats pregnant and/or with pups.
Figure 2. Luis de la Fuente talked and showed them how to install the net and the main features to correctly identify a bat species. Photos by Omar Calva.